

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT  
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: Memorial Stadium, Baltimore Maryland Survey Number: B-3989  
Project: Demolition Agency: Maryland Stadium Authority  
Site visit by MHT Staff: X no    yes Name                      Date                     

Eligibility recommended            Eligibility not recommended X

Criteria:   A  B   C   D Considerations:   A   B   C   D   E   F   G   None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

Memorial Stadium is a reinforced concrete sports stadium constructed in two major stages. Located in Baltimore's Waverly neighborhood, the horseshoe-shaped two-deck stadium occupies the center of a 33-acre site. The Stadium was the result of two major building campaigns and numerous improvements. The original reinforced concrete lower level was constructed between 1949 and 1950. The upper deck and exterior façade of the stadium were added to the original stadium between the fall of 1953 and the spring of 1954. The face of the reinforced concrete upper deck is supported by concrete pylons and the back is supported by rectangular concrete piers with flared caps. The mezzanine seating level is hung from the edge of the upper level. Nine boxed spiral ramps provide access to the upper deck.

The façade of the stadium rises to the mezzanine level promenade and consists of a wall created by poured reinforced concrete columns and beams infilled with concrete block. The exterior face is veneered in brick and laid in 5:1 common bond. Ventilation openings and the exterior of the entrance ramps are faced with pale yellow pre-cast blocks. The brick and cast-stone façade features a dedication to all who fought and served in the world wars, executed in stainless steel lettering and incorporating an aluminum city seal.

The exterior was modified in 1984 through the addition of four symmetrical quadrangular-shaped additions, and a two-story office building constructed between the southwest additions. The office building served as the new primary entrance to the stadium.

The stadium underwent major modifications in 1961, 1964, and 1985 and was continuously improved throughout its occupancy. Numerous changes were made to the original design in an effort to prolong the useful life of the complex. The stadium has been vacant since 1997. Many of the components that defined the complex including the last scoreboard and playing field, have been removed. Some components have been reinstalled at Orioles Park at Camden Yards.

While Memorial Stadium was the site of notable sports events and is noteworthy in the history of Baltimore, the completed stadium is less than fifty years old and its design was continuously modified during its use. Memorial Stadium does not possess those qualities of integrity and exceptional significance defined by the National Register of Historic Places.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Review & Compliance Files

Prepared by: Kathryn Kuranda, R.Christopher Goodwin and Associates, Inc.

Patricia McCloskey

May 16, 2000

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

NR program concurrence: X yes    no    not applicable

B. Kuranda  
Reviewer, NR program

5/17/00  
Date

*gms*

**Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. B-3989

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic Memorial Stadium

and/or common N/A

**2. Location**

street & number 900 East 33rd Street ☐ not for publication

city, town Baltimore ☐ vicinity of ☐ congressional district

state Maryland ☐ county Baltimore

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Maryland Stadium Authority

Warehouse at Camden Yards

street & number 333 West Camden Street, Suite 500

telephone no.: 301-330-1560

city, town Baltimore

state and zip code Maryland 21201-2435

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Land Record Office, Baltimore City Courthouse, 100 N. Calvert Street

street & number Suite 600, 100 N. Calvert Street

folio

city, town Baltimore

state Maryland

**6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys**

title N/A

date

☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

## 7. Description

Survey No. B-3989

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☐ good  
☐ fair

☒ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

See Continuation Sheets

## **Description Summary**

Memorial Stadium is a reinforced concrete sports stadium constructed in two major stages. Located in Baltimore's Waverly neighborhood, the horseshoe-shaped two-deck stadium occupies the center of a 33-acre site. This site is defined by 33<sup>rd</sup> Street, Ednor Avenue, 36<sup>th</sup> Street, and Ellerslie Avenue on the south, east, north, and west, respectively. The original entrance to the stadium was oriented south towards 33<sup>rd</sup> Street. The playing field extends north from the main stadium structure. A paved asphalt parking lot with a capacity of 2,500 vehicles surrounds the stadium.

The multi-use stadium was built to attract a major league baseball team to the City of Baltimore and served as the home field for the American League Baltimore Orioles and the National Football League Baltimore Colts. Home plate of the baseball field was located at the south end of the horseshoe near the 33<sup>rd</sup> Street entrance and the football field was oriented along a north – south axis. The playing surfaces and top foot of soil have been removed.

Memorial Stadium was the result of two major building campaigns and numerous improvements. The original reinforced concrete lower level was constructed between 1949 and 1950 and accommodated 31,000 spectators. The majority of the replacement aluminum benches found in the stands have been removed.

Team locker rooms, and the Orioles trainer's room, meeting rooms, and weight rooms were located below the stands near the 33<sup>rd</sup> Street entrance. Concessions and restrooms were located on the promenade of the lower level. Directly behind the 33<sup>rd</sup> Street entrance was the Hit and Run Club, a full-service restaurant. These rooms have been stripped of all equipment, including lockers, tables, and weight equipment.

Indoor throwing and batting cages were located under the east half of the horseshoe-shaped structure. The pitching mounds are still in place. The football locker rooms, team rooms, and a delivery entrance were located beneath the west half of the stadium.

Permanent field-side box seats were added to the facility in 1961. The idea for the seats originated with temporary field seating added to accommodate an overflow crowd for the 1958 All-Star Game (Brown 1991: 28).

The baseball dugouts were equipped with steam-heated players' benches. Pitchers waiting in the bullpens were protected by wire mesh mounted on wood frames. The baseball diamond's left center field retains a metal scoreboard built in 1970. This scoreboard replaced an earlier board. The Mitsubishi Diamond Vision scoreboard, added to Memorial Stadium in 1985, was moved to the city's new stadium complex, Orioles Park at Camden Yards, after the 1991 season. The concrete footers marking the original location of the scoreboard survive. The baseball outfield of Memorial Stadium was lit by four angle iron light towers that were built in 1954.

The upper deck and exterior facade of the stadium were added to the original stadium between the fall of 1953 and the spring of 1954. The upper deck comprises upper level and mezzanine-level seating in addition to a mezzanine-level promenade.

The face of the reinforced concrete upper deck is supported by concrete pylons and the back is supported by rectangular concrete piers with flared caps. The mezzanine seating level is hung from the edge of the upper level. The mezzanine level included original wood seats, the baseball press box behind the 33<sup>rd</sup> Street entrance, the football press box at the west end of the horseshoe, and a small number of private sky boxes. Concessions and restrooms are accessible from the promenade.

Nine boxed spiral ramps provide access to the upper deck. In 1964, two additional seating sections were constructed at opposing ends of the upper deck; these additions adopted the design and construction techniques used in the 1953-54 expansion. Escalators provided access to the new sections.

The façade of the stadium rises to the mezzanine level promenade and consists of a wall created by poured reinforced concrete columns and beams infilled with concrete block. The exterior face is veneered in brick laid in 5:1 common bond. Ventilation openings and the exterior of the entrance ramps are faced with pale yellow pre-cast blocks.

Pedestrian paths leading to the stadium's original entrance on 33<sup>rd</sup> Street are delineated by ornamental shrubs. Similar plantings also are found along the façade of the structure. The landscape design is credited to landscape architect, R. Brooke Maxwell, who served as the Director of Recreation and Parks with the City of Baltimore. The landscape design was described by a fellow landscape architect in 1985 as "among the most decorative in the United States" (Most Outstanding 1958).

The brick and cast-stone façade features a dedication executed in stainless steel lettering and incorporating an aluminum city seal. The inscription reads:

Erected by the City of Baltimore in 1953, dedicated by the Mayor and City Council and the people of Baltimore city in the State of Maryland as a memorial to all who so valiantly fought and served in the world wars with eternal gratitude to those who made the supreme sacrifice to preserve equality and freedom throughout the world.

The lettering of the dedication ranges in height from twelve inches to the ten-foot high "Memorial Stadium." The letters are attached to the façade with small pins and protrude two inches from the masonry. The city seal is fifteen feet in diameter and was cast in Jamestown, N.Y. The façade towers 116 feet above the 33<sup>rd</sup> Street entrance to the stadium. The dedication is executed in modern lettering designed by Francis Tarlowski for Memorial Stadium. While working on the stadium, Tarlowski was employed by L. P. Kookan, consulting engineers on the construction

project (Stadium Work 1954; Baltimore Glimpses 1979; Egyptian, Russian? 1954; Sealing Up 1954).

In 1984, the exterior of the stadium was modified through the addition of four symmetrical quadrangular-shaped additions that abut the facade. The additions housed restrooms on the upper and lower promenades and storage spaces. A two-story office building was constructed between the southwest additions. The building served as the new primary entrance to the stadium.

The second floor of the brick office building housed the offices for the Baltimore Orioles, while the first floor contained ticket offices. The office building occupies a crescent shaped footprint and is oriented to the southwest. The brick walls are laid in a 5:1 common bond. The building terminates in a flat roof sheathed in a tar and pebble cladding. The roofline is delineated by a brick parapet.

The symmetrical façade of the office extended seven bays by four bays. The center bay of the façade protrudes from the building face, while the flanking bays are recessed. The front elevation features square brick columns that are fluted at the top of the first and second stories. The front elevation features four- and nine-light fixed windows.

The stadium, which was constructed in two major stages, underwent major modifications in 1961, 1964, and 1985 and was continuously improved throughout its occupancy. Numerous changes were made to the original design in an effort to prolong the useful life of the complex. The current facility has been vacant since 1997. Many of the components that defined the complex, including the last scoreboard and playing field, have been removed as have the majority of salvageable furnishings. Many of the elements with important local associations have been reinstalled at Orioles Park at Camden Yards.



## 8. Significance

Survey No. B-3989

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) sports

**Specific dates** 1950, 1954, 1961,  
1964, 1985 **Builder/Architect** L.P. Kooker Co./DeLuca - Davis Co. &  
Joseph F. Hughes Co.

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☒ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS

## Summary

Memorial Stadium is located at the corner of 33<sup>rd</sup> Street and Ellerslie Avenue in Baltimore's Waverly neighborhood. The stadium complex is surrounded by parking lots. The complex, originally constructed between 1949-50 and 1953-54, is a modern, reinforced concrete, two-deck, multi-use stadium. Dedicated as a war memorial, the facility served as a home to Baltimore's major league sports events for over 40 years. Sports teams associated with the stadium have included baseball's Baltimore Orioles and football's Baltimore Colts and the Ravens.

The importance and integrity of the complex was assessed applying the criteria of exceptional significance defined in the guidelines developed by the National Register of Historic Places and detailed in *National Register Bulletin 22: Guidelines for Evaluating and Nominating Properties that Have Achieved Significance Within the Past Fifty Years* (National Park Service 1996). The history, design, and surviving physical characteristics of the stadium were analyzed for their potential significance during the Modern Period (1930 – Present) in the area of entertainment/recreation. In addition, research was undertaken to identify important sports events associated with the complex.

While Memorial Stadium was the site of notable sports events and is noteworthy in the history of Baltimore, the completed stadium is less than fifty years old and its design was continuously modified during its use. In addition, individual elements important to the design and integrity of the complex have been removed. Several elements with particular local associations have been reinstalled at Orioles Park at Camden Yards. Memorial Stadium does not possess those qualities of integrity and exceptional significance defined by the National Register of Historic Places.

## History

The site of Memorial Stadium has been the location of a sports stadium since 1922; the area has been a focal point for sporting events in Baltimore for over 75 years. Baltimore's Municipal Stadium was built in 1922 to attract intercollegiate football, particularly Army and Navy games. The earlier earthen stadium accommodated 60,000 spectators on its tiered wooden benches. The southern, open end of the horseshoe plan stadium featured a pillared administration building, which housed offices, showers and locker rooms (Bready 1998:206).

Baseball in Baltimore has a long history. The city fielded a minor league Class AA team in the American Association beginning in 1882. When the association disbanded in 1891, the Orioles were invited into the National League, winning the pennant in 1894, 1895, and 1896. Due to management's collusion with the Brooklyn Dodgers, Baltimore was one of the clubs dropped when the league shrank from twelve teams to eight after the 1899 season. The former National League team was succeeded by a new entry called the Orioles in the American League at its founding in 1901. Baltimore lost its major league status after the 1902 season when the team



moved and became the New York Yankees. From 1903 through 1953, Baltimore only fielded minor leagues teams. The most prominent was the Baltimore Orioles of the Class AAA International League. The team played at Oriole Park from 1916 to 1944. The ballpark was located at the corner of Greenmount Avenue and 30<sup>th</sup> Street in Baltimore.

Following a fire that destroyed Oriole Park, July 4, 1944, the International League Orioles moved to Municipal Stadium. That fall, the City of Baltimore demonstrated its support for major league baseball when 52,000 spectators attended the Junior World Series game between the Orioles and Louisville. That same day, the St. Louis Cardinals and Browns played before a crowd of 31,000 at the World Series (Reidenbaugh 1987:26,28).

During this period, sportswriter Roger Pippen of the *News-Post* sought support for improvements to Municipal Stadium. His numerous columns on the subject fueled debate over "why Baltimore was still a minor league city?" Pippen received a written promise from the owner of the Washington Senators that he would not oppose an American League team moving to Baltimore. Realizing that attracting a major league baseball team to Baltimore required a modern stadium, Pippen went on to advocate for the construction of a new facility. In 1947, the voters passed a \$2.5 million bond issue to improve Municipal Stadium (Gershman 1993:170,173).

The City of Baltimore initiated a design study for a baseball stadium without a commitment by either an American League or National League team to relocate to the city. On November 18, 1947, the firm of L. P. Kooken submitted a proposal for a two-tier stadium with a 84,000 seating capacity for football and a 74,000 seating capacity for baseball (Quinn 1948). In 1948, L. P. Kooken displayed a model to promote their stadium design. An innovation in the design included the location of box seating under the front edge of the upper deck rather than at the sidelines. The plan was promoted as "the only one of its type in the country." In addition to skyboxes, the design featured twenty spiral staircases to provide access to the upper deck. The design for the exterior elevation depicted a brick-and-limestone wall punctuated by ventilation windows (Stadium Model 1948).

The initial bond issue was insufficient to fund the total project and a city put forth a second bond issue for voter consideration in 1948. The bond issue was narrowly defeated 78,012 to 73,014. In a continuing effort to attract a commitment from a major league team, the city decided to proceed with the construction of a part of the stadium. In 1949, construction began on the lower deck (Lowry 1992:104). Work continued as the Baltimore Orioles of the International League played in the stadium.

The first municipal bond enabled the city to tear down the earthen stadium and entrance building. In its place, the city built a reinforced concrete, one-level, mixed-use stadium. The spare concrete horseshoe, finished in 1950, featured wooden benches. Like its predecessor, the new stadium adopted a horseshoe plan, but opened to the north. Home plate was repositioned from the vicinity of 36th Street to the vicinity of 33<sup>rd</sup> Street (Brown 1991:72,73; Bready 1998:216). In

1950, the International League Orioles moved into the new 31,000-seat facility (Reidenbaugh 1987:28).

A new \$2.5 million bond issue was presented in 1950. This time voters approved the issue 89,970 votes to 64,320 (Brown 1991:72). This approval made possible the addition of a second deck. Prior to the vote, voters received two pieces of news: Baltimore would receive a National Football team and Mayor Thomas D'Alesandro, Jr., was in discussions to bring baseball's St. Louis Browns of the American League (AL) to Baltimore. When the Browns owner, Bill Veeck sold Sportsman Park in April 1953, excitement in Baltimore increased. Excitement peaked on September 29 when a Baltimore syndicate bought the Browns for \$2.475 million (Gershman 1993:173). The Baltimore group moved the AL team to Memorial Stadium. This was the first modern AL franchise shift (Shannon 1975:24). Subsequently to this move, the Baltimore Orioles of the International League folded and the major league St. Louis Browns became the new Baltimore Orioles.

In 1953, the city continued to develop Memorial Stadium as a multi-use facility featuring an open second deck (Reidenbaugh 1987:28). The upper deck was constructed from the fall of 1953 through the spring of 1954 (Lowry 1992:104). Construction did not interrupt the schedule of home games of the Baltimore Colts first season (Bready 1998:217).

The engineers of the L. P. Kookken Company and the contractors, the DeLuca-Davis and Joseph F. Hughes companies, struggled to meet their April 15<sup>th</sup> deadline within the \$6.5 million budget. Construction of the second deck was delayed while the city made another application for steel after the material was rationed by the National Production Authority in Washington (Steel Application 1951). The new stadium featured nine concrete ramps to a sloping upper deck, a mezzanine, an immense outfield, and seating for close to 50,000 spectators. The stadium also featured two concrete promenades, and offices, locker and storage rooms (Bready 1998:224). Memorial Stadium was unique in its open upper deck. It was the first baseball stadium constructed with an open-air topside.

On April 15, 1954, Baltimore returned to major league baseball after being confined to minor leagues for over a half century. Vice President Richard M. Nixon threw out the first ball before 46,000 spectators. A crowd of 350,000 spectators lined the streets to view a motorcade and opening day parade that included 22 marching bands and traveled 56 blocks. On this day, schools and many businesses closed; City Hall declared a half-holiday (Shannon 1975:24; Brown 1991:6).

The formal dedication for Memorial Stadium, named to honor the dead of both World Wars and the Korean War, was held May 30, 1956. As part of the ceremony, a parade and memorial service were held at the National Cemetery. Nearly 34,000 people watched the Orioles play the Boston Red Sox and observed the dedication. The dedication address was given by Gen. Raleigh B. Hendrix, who commanded troops in both the European and Mediterranean theaters in World War II. At the ceremony, a bronze urn was presented that would be filled with soil from each cemetery throughout the world where American war dead are buried (Formal Stadium Dedication 1956; Stadium Rite 1956).

The stadium underwent major structural changes in 1961, 1964, and 1985. In 1961, new dugouts, bullpens, and 2,571 field-edge box seats were installed, which increased the park's capacity to 49,375. In 1964, the upper deck was expanded. These additions increased the seating capacity to 52,137. Seating was divided between 7,488 in the lower boxes; 8,617 in the lower reserved; 2,117 in the mezzanine boxes; 12,424 in the upper reserved; 18,087 in general admission; and 3,404 in the bleacher section. Modifications in 1985 increased the number of public rest rooms as well as office space for the Oriole's management. By 1989, the seating capacity had risen to 54,076 (Reidenbaugh 1987:30; Shannon 1975:27; Benson 1989:25; Brown 1991:23).

The stadium also underwent numerous minor changes. Aluminum furnishings replaced wood benches and seats. Chair backs were installed in the upper deck, including 4,264 chair backs in the spring of 1963. Concessions expanded their menus over the years to include crab cakes, knishes, and guacamole. Overhead TV screens enabled patrons in concession lines to follow the action on the field. A ground-level restaurant, the Hit and Run Club, also was added. The restaurant decor featured replicas of the lockers of players elected to the Orioles Hall of Fame. The press boxes and the restaurant-lounge underwent several renovations. On the mezzanine level, several box sections were closed to create an owner's box, a Designated Hitter's box, additional broadcasting boxes, and several corporate sky boxes (Brown 1991:24, 26; 4,264 Chairback Seats 1964).

The stadium, at one time, featured the "world's largest automatic baseball-football scoreboard." The scoreboard, designed by Lon Keller, was 75 feet long and 65 feet high. The board was built by the Gunther Company, a leading regional brewer of the time, in return for advertising privileges. The scoreboard was operated by two men (World's Largest 1954). This board was replaced in the summer of 1970 with a smaller board that also doubled as a message board. In 1985, a state-of-the-art Mitsubishi Diamond Vision video board delivered information and pictures unheard of when the ballpark was built. The new board, built in right center field, provided replays and between-innings entertainment. This scoreboard was moved to Orioles Park at Camden Yards in 1991 (Bird Billboard 1970; Brown 1991:25-26).

The original stadium lacked a center field fence; the center field was delineated by hedges (Reidenbaugh 1987:28; Shannon 1975: 27). Outfield boundaries were altered in 1956, 1959, 1962, and 1976, reducing the distance to dead center field from 450 to 405 feet.

On December 5, 1958, the Memorial Stadium parking lot became the site of an outdoor skating rink. The rink opened with a free exhibition by national and international stars. The ice for the rink was made by a modern freezing plant located within Memorial Stadium (Baltimore's New Outdoor Ice Skating Rink 1958).

Memorial Stadium was the site of tragedy on May 2, 1964. A portable gate at the top of the upper deck escalator was designed to allow one person to exit at a time. This system did not provide timely egress for a group of children. The children panicked as they packed onto the 8 by 10-foot platform. In the estimated 30 seconds before the escalator was stopped, a 14-year-old girl died and 45 children were injured. The children were among approximately 20,000 school children

admitted free to the Baltimore Orioles-Cleveland Indians baseball game for Safety Patrol Day (14-Year-Old Girl Killed 1964).

Several improvements were completed in 1966. A large marquee was added to the front of the stadium, radio speakers were installed along the promenade, the public address system was upgraded, seating areas were added at the concessions, and a special events room was outfitted. Improvements to the mezzanine level included the installation of deluxe boxes adjacent to the baseball press box, painting the season boxes and construction of additional office space (City Board Gives Birds Go-Ahead 1967).

The stadium also was improved in 1977. The facility was repainted, 100 multi-vapor lights were replaced, and the last 17,000 upper deck wooden seats were replaced. The installation of these aluminum seats along with back supports ended the stadium's legacy of splinters (Klingaman 1977).

Following a football game in which the Baltimore Colts lost the playoff to the Pittsburgh Steelers in 1977, Donald N. Kroener crashed his plane into the upper deck of the stadium causing \$20,000 in damage. Repairs to the stadium included the replacement of 50 upper deck seats and the clean up of the chemical foam used to prevent fire after the accident. No spectators were hurt seriously (\$20,000 to Repair 1977).

In the spring of 1984, Baltimore lost its NFL franchise when its football team fled in the middle of the night to become the Indianapolis Colts. Although a number of improvements were made to Memorial Stadium in 1985, the facility was inadequate for modern sporting events and the Orioles were investigating a new stadium. On September 30, 1991, the Orioles played their last home game before moving to a new stadium in Baltimore, Orioles Park at Camden Yards. Memorial stadium briefly hosted the CFL's Stallions before serving as a temporary home for the NFL's Ravens. The stadium currently is vacant. All furnishings and salvageable material has been removed. The demolition of the complex is anticipated in 2000.

### **Memorial Stadium and Sports Stadium Design**

Baseball stadiums can be classified into three clearly defined stadium eras: the classic ballpark, the super stadium, and the regenerated classic ballpark. The classic ballpark era was introduced in the 1910s. Memorial Stadium was a forerunner of the super stadiums built in the 1960s and 1970s. The regenerated classic ballpark era was initiated by Orioles Park at Camden Yards in 1992.

During the first era, stadiums were built by team owners who recognized the financial advantage attracting large crowds to games. Before 1900, ballparks were modest facilities comprising a field and small wooden bleachers surrounded by a fence. As ticket sales increased, the expense of improving the ballpark was justified. Permanent materials, such as structural steel



and reinforced concrete, made possible larger facilities with expanded seating and amenities. The most significant design feature of the classic ballpark was the addition of the upper deck. The upper deck allowed a greater number of spectators to watch the games at closer range. Stadiums built in this period, such as Fenway Park (1912), Tiger Stadium (1912), and Wrigley Field (1914), generally were integrated into existing neighborhoods. Consequently, the designs adopted the asymmetrical forms dictated by property lines. Owners also influenced stadium design as in the case of Yankee's owner, Jacob Ruppert, who specified a short right field at Yankee Stadium (1923) to highlight the talents of Babe Ruth.

The introduction of lightweight, high-strength concrete, Modernist architectural design, and residential migration from the cities to the suburbs were factors supporting the development of super stadiums. These new stadiums were built to accommodate a variety of sports and non-sports events. Larger suburban sites and parking requirements fostered the construction of isolated and freestanding complexes. The super stadiums frequently are large oval structures surrounded by acres of adjoining parking lots. These super stadiums were functional complexes designed to accommodate both baseball and football and programmed to accommodate a specific number of seats. Luxury facilities, such as suites and club seating, were not integral to the designs. Stadiums built during this period include Candlestick Park (1960), Dodger Stadium (1962), The Astrodome (1965), Busch Stadium (1966), Three Rivers Stadium (1970) and Riverfront Stadium (1970).

The design of these stadiums frequently emphasized engineering rather than architectural elaboration. Lighter, high-strength concrete reduced the size of support footings and made possible extreme cantilevers. The first "column-free" stadium was RFK Stadium constructed in Washington, D.C. in 1962. The engineering constraints posed by cantilevered design resulted in greater distances from the upper deck to the field, therefore moving spectators away from the action. Designs were introduced in which the mezzanine level was hung from the front of the upper deck. These seats over time were converted into skyboxes and suites for corporate patrons.

By the late 1980s and early 1990s, super stadiums with poor sight lines fell out of favor as team owners sought to improve their facilities. Consequently, the regenerated classic ballpark emerged. Orioles Park at Camden Yards (1992) was the prototype for the latest era in stadium design. These new stadium complexes were built with sport -specific facilities and integrated architectural as well as engineering aesthetics in their design.

Memorial Stadium in Baltimore served as a bridge between the classic ballpark located in a neighborhood setting and the super stadium. The stadium made extensive use of concrete and incorporated Modernist design elements that resulted in a simple and efficient stadium. Many of the design elements, including the mezzanine level and the symmetrical field, are readily apparent in the later designs of the super stadiums. Memorial Stadium was located in a downtown neighborhood, incorporated brick to embellish the stadium structure, and utilized columns to support the upper deck.

## Sports Highlights at Memorial Stadium

The Orioles played from the Memorial Stadium for 37 years and participated in six World Series during their tenure. The stadium also hosted the National Football League's Baltimore Colts from 1953 to 1983 and was the site of their 1959 NFL Championship game. The stadium was the home of the NFL's Baltimore Ravens in 1996 and 1997 before the team moved to PSI.net Stadium. The stadium also played host to the Baltimore Stallions, Baltimore's entry in the Canadian Football League, in 1994 and 1995. Table 1 for highlights the sports events associated with Memorial Stadium.

**Table 1. Sports Highlights**

### **Memorial Stadium Occupants**

Baltimore Bays	(NASL)	1967-1968
Baltimore Colts	(NFL)	September 27, 1953- December 18, 1983; NFL Champions Dec 27, 1959
Baltimore Orioles, AAA	(IL)	1950-1953
Baltimore Orioles	(MLB)	April 15, 1954- September 30, 1991; World Champs 1966, 1970, 1983
Bowie Baysox, AA	(EL)	1993
Baltimore Stallions	(CFL)	July 16, 1994- November 12, 1995
Baltimore Ravens	(NFL)	September 1, 1996- December 14, 1997

Dec. 2, 1922	Venerable Park, the predecessor to Municipal and Memorial stadiums, opens with a football game between the Army Third Corps and the Quantico Marines, before 50,000 spectators.
Nov. 29, 1924	Army defeated Navy in football, 12-0, before 80,000 spectators.
Oct. 15, 1927	Notre Dame played Navy for the first time, winning 19-6.
Dec. 2, 1944	Army defeated Navy 23-7 to decide the national championship.
Sept. 7, 1947	In their inaugural game, All-America Conference Colts beat the Brooklyn Dodgers, 16-7.
Nov. 5, 1950	The Colts defeat the Green Bay Packers, 41-21, in their only victory in their first year in the NFL.
Aug. 15, 1951	Joe Louis, former world heavyweight champion, defeated Jimmy Bivins in a 10-round decision.



- Sept. 27, 1953     Baltimore rejoined the NFL after two years without a team, upsetting the Bears 13-9, as Bert Rechichar kicked a NFL-record 56-yard field goal.
- April 15, 1954     The American League Orioles debut before 46,354 spectators and defeat the Chicago White Sox 3-1. Bob Turley pitched a seen hitter and Clint Courtney hit the first home run.
- Sept. 25, 1955     Alan Ameche, the Colt's first round draft pick, runs 79 yards for a touchdown the first time he touches the ball helping the Colts defeat the Bears, 23-17.
- July 8, 1958       In the only All-Star Game ever with no extra-base hits, the Oriole's Billy O'Dell retires nine straight National League batters to protect the American League's 4-3 lead.
- Sept. 20, 1958     Baltimore's Hoyt Wilhelm throws the first no-hitter in the stadium, defeating the New York Yankees, 1-0.
- Nov. 30, 1958     Trailing the San Francisco 49ers 27-7 at halftime, the Colts Lenny Moore scores a 74-yard touchdown run as the team comes from behind to win, 35-27, to capture the Western Conference title.
- June 10, 1959     Cleveland's Rocky Colavito hit for straight home runs to set a Memorial Stadium record.
- Dec. 27, 1959     Johnny Unitas throws for two touchdowns and scores another as the Colts win the NFL title over the New York Giants, 31-16.
- Nov. 24, 1960     City College, 0-9-1 against Poly in the 1950s, won the schools' annual Thanksgiving game, 30-26, when Tom Duley returned an 85-yard kickoff.
- Dec. 4, 1960       Johnny Unitas throws a TD pass for a 47<sup>th</sup> straight game, a NFL record.
- Sept. 20, 1961     Roger Maris hits his 59<sup>th</sup> homer, off Milt Pappas.
- May 24, 1963       Minnesota's Harmon Killebrew hit the Memorial Stadium's longest home run, a 471-foot drive, off Milt Pappas.

- Dec. 13, 1964 Raymond Berry caught his 506<sup>th</sup> career pass and Lenny Moore scored his 20<sup>th</sup> season touchdown, both NFL records, in a 45-17 win over the Washington Redskins.
- May 8, 1966 Frank Robinson hits the only fair ball out of Memorial Stadium, a 451-foot drive over the left-field stands. The Oriole's marked the spot where the ball left the stadium by flying a flag at home games that said "HERE."
- Oct. 6, 1966 Frank Robinson's homer is the only run in Orioles' 1-0 victory L. A. Dodgers, enabling Baltimore to complete a four-game sweep for its first World Series title.
- Sept. 3, 1967 The Baltimore Bays won the first game in the North American Soccer League championship series against the Oakland Clippers, before a league-record 16,619.
- Oct. 4, 1969 The Orioles' Paul Blair lays a 22-foot bunt to defeat the Minnesota Twins, 4-3, in the 12<sup>th</sup> inning of the first game of the American League playoffs.
- Oct. 12, 1969 New York Mets' pitchers Gary Gentry and Nolan Ryan combine for a shutout in Game 3 as the "Miracle Mets" win the World Series with four straight wins.
- Oct. 15, 1970 MVP Brooks Robinson threw out Cincinnati's last batter as the Orioles win their second World Series title.
- Sept. 13, 1971 Frank Robinson hits his 500<sup>th</sup> homer, off Detroit's Fred Scherman.
- Oct. 1971 In their third successive World Series, the Baltimore Orioles faced its third different opponent, losing to the Pittsburgh Pirates in seven games.
- Dec. 3, 1971 John Unitas threw his final touchdown pass for the Colts in a 35-7 victory over the Buffalo Bills.
- Sept. 24, 1972 John Unitas and Joe Namath combine for greatest passing day in NFL history. Namath threw for 496 yards and six touchdowns, and Unitas passed for 376 yards as the Colts' lost, 44-34, to the New York Jets.

- Oct. 7, 1973      Pele and Santos of Brazil defeated the Bays, 6-4, in an exhibition game before the largest soccer crowd in Baltimore history, 24, 680.
- Aug. 15, 1975      Earl Weaver was ejected twice in one day in a doubleheader.
- April 19, 1977      Brooks Robinson hit his 268<sup>th</sup> and last homer to defeat the Cleveland Indians.
- Nov. 6, 1978      In the last "Monday Night Football" game played in Memorial Stadium, Bert Jones, playing with an injured shoulder, threw a late touchdown pass to defeat the Redskins, 21-17.
- Oct. 17, 1979      Willie Stargell hit a two-run homer against the Orioles in the sixth inning of the seventh game, as the Pittsburgh Pirates became the fourth team to win the Series after being down, three games to one.
- Oct. 3, 1982      After sweeping the first three games of the series with the Milwaukee Brewers to tie the American League East lead, the Orioles lost, 10-2, on the final day. Earl Weaver retires after 14-½ years as the Orioles manager.
- Oct. 16, 1983      Home runs by Rick Dempsey and Eddie Murray in game 5 powers the Baltimore Orioles to their third World championship.
- Dec. 18, 1983      The Colts play their last game at Memorial Stadium before 27,934 spectators, a 20-10 win over the Houston Oilers.
- July 17, 1987      For the first time in major-league sports history, two sons play for a team managed by their father as Bill Ripken, making his debut, joins brother Cal and father cal Sr.
- Nov. 11, 1989      For the first time since 1961, Maryland did not lose to Penn State, playing to a 13-13 tie.
- Aug. 11, 1991      Chicago's Wilson Alvarez, in his second major league appearance, no hits the Orioles.
- Sept. 29, 1991      The Orioles play their final game at Memorial Stadium.
- Aug. 27, 1992      Exhibition game between New Orleans Saints and Miami Dolphins, promoting a "Give Baltimore the Ball" campaign, drew 60,021.

- Sept. 10, 1993 Last professional baseball game played at Memorial Stadium. Bowie Baysox, awaiting construction of their new stadium, are eliminated from Double-A Eastern League playoffs by the Canton-Akron Indians before 1,437.
- July 16, 1994 Doug Flutie threw for two touchdowns and ran for another as the Calgary Stampeders defeated the Baltimore Stallions, 42-16, in the first Canadian Football League game in Baltimore.
- Nov. 12, 1995 The Stallions played their last game at Memorial Stadium, beating the San Antonio Texans for the CFL Southern Division title.
- Sept. 1, 1996 The Ravens' first regular-season game, a 19-14 win over the Oakland Raiders, was played before 64,124, the largest crowd in Baltimore professional sports history.
- Dec. 14, 1997 The Ravens play the Oilers in their last game at Memorial Stadium.

### **Analysis**

Memorial Stadium is a former multi-use sports complex built to host baseball and football games. The design of the facility served as a forerunner to the super stadiums of the 1960s and 1970s. The stadium, which was constructed in two major stages, underwent major modifications in 1961, 1964, and 1985 and was continuously improved throughout its occupancy. The stadium underwent numerous changes to its original design in an effort to prolong the useful life of the complex. The current facility has been vacant since 1997. Many of the components that defined the complex, including the scoreboard and playing field, have been removed as have the majority of salvageable furnishings. Many of these elements with important local associations have been reinstalled at Orioles Park at Camden Yards.

While Memorial Stadium was the site of both notable events in sports history and in the local history of the City of Baltimore, the structure is of relatively recent construction, its design has been continuously modified, and the integrity of the stadium as a sports facility has been compromised. Memorial Stadium does not possess those qualities of exceptional significance as defined by the National Register of Historic Places.

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

**MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA**

Geographic Organization:	Piedmont
Chronological/Developmental Period(s):	Modern Period A. D. 1930 - Present
Historic Period Theme(s):	Architecture Sports
Resource Type:	
Category:	Structure
Historic Environment:	Urban
Historic Function(s) and Use(s):	Sports Stadium
Known Design Source:	L. P. Kooker Company

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. B-3989

See continuation sheet

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 33ac

Quadrangle name Baltimore East, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

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D 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification delineated

Property boundaries are by 33rd St, Ednor Ave., 36th St, and Ellerslie Ave.  
Baltimore, Maryland

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Brian Cleven, Industrial Archeologist

organization R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc. date 3/00

street & number 241 East 4th Street, Suite 100 telephone (301) 694-0428

city or town Frederick state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
514-7600



## Section 9

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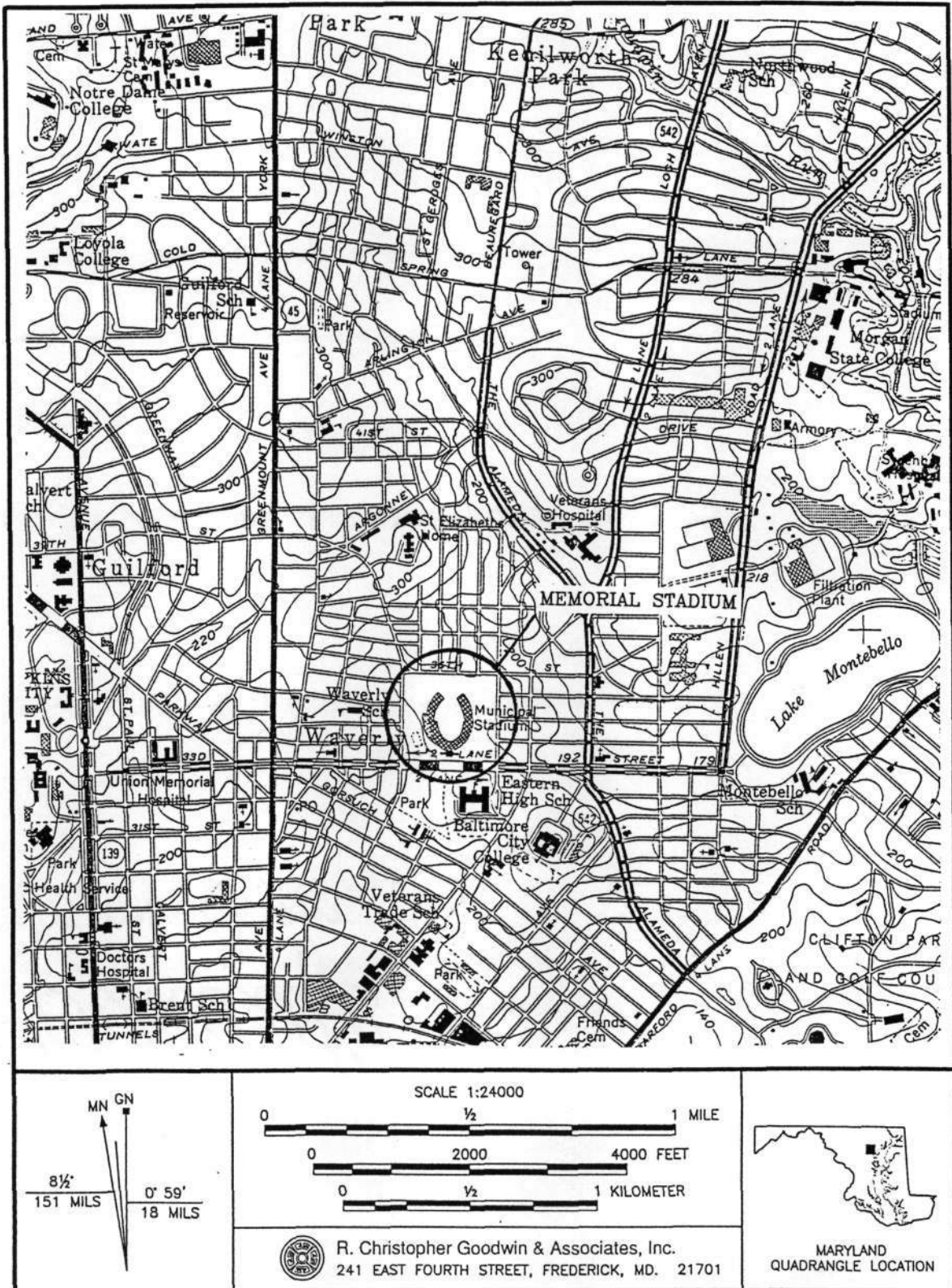
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MHT # B-3989  
 Memorial Stadium  
 Baltimore, Baltimore County, Maryland  
 East Baltimore Quadrangle



Photographers: Justin Edgington and Brian Clevlen

Date: March 2000

<u>No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	S elevation, looking N.
2	SE elevation, looking NW.
3	NNW elevation, looking SE.
4	SW elevation, looking NE.
5	33 <sup>rd</sup> St. entrance, looking N.
6	Interior, 33 <sup>rd</sup> St. entrance, looking NW.
7	Alcove for urn commemorating U.S. war dead, looking N.
8	Hit and Run Club restaurant, looking W.
9	Former Baltimore Orioles' locker room, looking SW.
10	Former Baltimore Orioles' trainers' room, looking SW.
11	Scoreboard under upper level, looking NW.
12	View from lower level, looking NW.
13	Press box for print reporters, looking NW.
14	Mezzanine level seats, looking E.
15	Upper promenade, looking S.
16	Typical concession, looking W.
17	View from upper level, looking N.
18	Light tower on upper level, looking NW.
19	Detail of upper level, looking SE.
20	Stadium from outfield, looking SSE.
21	West end of seats, looking SW.
22	Ca. 1970 scoreboard, looking NE.
23	Dugout on third base line, looking S.



B-3 989

Memorial Stadium

Baltimore Co. Md

B. Cleven

3/00

Md SHPD

Principal elevation looking N from 33rd St

1/23





B-3989

Memorial Stadium

Baltimore Co. Md

B. Clevon

3/00

Md SHPD

SE elevation, looking NW

2/23



B- 3989

Memorial Stadium

Baltimore Co. Md

B. Cleven

3/00

Md SHPO

TCP 81-05 NNNNNN-06RU 039

NNW elevation, looking SSE

3/23

1441  
1441



B-3989

Memorial Stadium

Baltimore Co Md

B. Cleven

3/00

Md SHPD

TOP 81-05 NNNNNN-0590 039

SW elevation w/new offices, looking NE

4/23



# MEMORIAL STADIUM



TRUSTED BY THE  
CITY OF BALTIMORE  
1954

DEDICATED BY

THE PEOPLE AND THE CITY COUNCIL  
AND THE PEOPLE OF BALTIMORE CITY  
IN THE STATE OF MARYLAND

AS A MEMORIAL TO ALL  
WHO IN VARIOUS FASHIONS  
AND SERVICE IN THE UNITED  
STATES OF AMERICA  
CONTINUED TO FIGHT AND  
MADE THE SUPREMACY  
SACRIFICE TO OUR  
EQUALITY AND FREEDOM  
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

TIME WILL NOT DIM THE GLORY OF THEIR DEEDS

B-3989

Memorial Stadium

Baltimore Co. Md

B. Clevelen

3/00

Md SHPD

33<sup>rd</sup> St. Entrance, looking N

5/23

TCP 81-05 NNNNN-01RU 039



B-3989

Memorial Stadium

Baltimore Co. Md

B. Cleven

3/00

Md SHPD

TCP 81-04 NNNNN-07BU 038

Interior 33<sup>rd</sup> St entrance, looking NW

6/23



B-3989

Memorial Stadium

Baltimore Co. Md

B. Cleven

3/00

Md SHPO

Alcove for urn commemorating U.S. dead  
inside 33<sup>rd</sup> St entrance, Looking N

7/23

TOP 81-04 NNNNN-1000 008





1300AM  
WJFK

WLIF

late 102

POST GAME  
at  
POE'S PLACE

B-3989

Memorial Stadium

Baltimore Co Md

B. Cleven

3/00

Md SHPD

Hit and Run Club restaurant, looking W

8/23

TCP 81-84 NNNNNN-01BU 058

APR 11 1981



Memorial Stadium

Baltimore Co Md

B. Cleven

3/00

Md SHPD

TCP 81-84 NNNNN-01AU 039

former Baltimore Orioles locker room

9/23



B-3989

Memorial Stadium

Baltimore Co Md

B. Cleven

3/00

Md SHPD

former Baltimore Orioles trainers room

10/23



QTR. GUEST HOME BALL ON DOWN TO GO GUEST HOME TIME  
T.O. LEFT



Memorial Stadium  
Baltimore Co Md  
B. Cleven

3/00

Md SHPD

scoreboard under upper level, looking NW.

11/23

858 0890+NNNNN 90-18 801



B-3989

Memorial Stadium

Baltimore Co Md

B. Clevin

3/00

Md SHPO

view from lower level, looking NW

12/23



B-3989

Memorial Stadium

Baltimore Co Md

B. Clever

3/00

Md SHPD

Print reporters TCP 81-06 NNNNN+220U 038 press box, looking NW

13/23





D-3989  
Memorial Stadium  
Baltimore Co. Md

B. Cleven

3/00

Md SHPD

Mezzanine level seating looking E

19/23



B-3989

Memorial Stadium

Baltimore Co Md

B. Clevon

3/00

Md SHPO

Upper Promenade, looking S

15/23



BOARDWALK FRIES® Etc.

PEPSI

B-39 89

Memorial Stadium

Baltimore Co. Md

B. Cleven

3/00

Md SHPD

TCP 81-04 NNNNNN+01BU 038

Typical Concession, looking W

16/23



Bar Harbor

SECTION

SECTION 1

SECTION 41

B-3989  
Memorial Stadium

Baltimore Co Md

B Clevel

3/00

Md SHPD

858 0810-NNNNN 40-18 dcl

View from upper level, looking N

17/23





B-3989

Memorial Stadium

Baltimore Co. Md

B. Clevon

3/00

Md SHPD

Light tower, upper level, looking NW

18/23

TOP81-05 NNNNN-0790 038



B-3989

Memorial Stadium

Baltimore Co Md

B. Clevon

3/00

Md SHPD

Detail of upper level, looking SE

19/23



B-3989

Memorial Stadium

Baltimore Co Md

B Cleven

3/00

Md SHPD

View of stadium from field, looking SSE

20 / 23



B-3989

Memorial Stadium

Baltimore Co Md

B Clevel

3/00

Md SHPO

TCP 81-04 NNNNN-018U 057

View of western stands, looking SE

2/23

Kodak  
Paper  
•  
PAPER





B-3989

Memorial Stadium

Baltimore Co Md

B. Cleven

3/00

Md SHPO

JCP 81-84 NNNNN-10BU 037

ca 1970 scoreboard, view NE

22/23



B-3989

Memorial Stadium

Baltimore Co Md

B. Cleven

3/00

Md SHPO

TCP 81-05 NNNNNN+02BU 037

dug out, 3<sup>rd</sup> base line, looking S

23/23

PROFESSIONAL  
PAPER • 4-1/2" x 11"